

ERGONOMIC INJURIES COST – SAVINGS FACT SHEET

THE COSTS

- ◆ Overexertion is #1 one cause of workplace injury. The direct cost of overexertion injuries for the U.S. economy was \$12.7 billion in 2005. Liberty Mutual Insurance 2008
- ◆ The cost of workers' compensation (WC) claims rises 8% annually. The average cost of a WC claim for cumulative trauma disorders (such as carpal tunnel syndrome) is \$17,757. National Safety Council 2008
- ◆ Musculoskeletal disorders comprise one-third of all lost work time injuries and illnesses, year after year. National Safety Council
- ◆ Ergonomic hazards are estimated to account for about 40% of the Workers' Compensation claims paid in Michigan in 2006 and 2007. Michigan Worker's Compensation Bureau 2008
- ◆ Nurses' aides and truck drivers have the greatest number of days away from work due to musculoskeletal disorders. US Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ◆ Overexertion and Repetitive Motion resulted in the highest median days away from work (34 days) for major disabling injuries. Management Information Systems Section, MIOSHA 2003
- ◆ The cost of back surgery generally ranges from \$2,000 to \$100,000. The average cost of a lower back injury claim is \$23,820. National Safety Council 2008

THE SAVINGS

- ◆ The National Safety Council estimates that only 16% of employees have developed effective ergonomic programs.
- ◆ Lacks Enterprises in Grand Rapids, by instituting an ergonomic program, realized a net annual savings of \$900,000.
- ◆ These are companies among the many Michigan companies that reduced injuries and costs by instituting an ergonomic program:

Brass Craft Mfg, Brownstown	Checker Motors Corp., Kalamazoo
Dura Automotive, Gladwin	Rexair Inc., Cadillac
Sara Lee Inc., Traverse City	SC Johnson, Bay City
Tenneco Automotive, Litchfield	Cascade Engineering, Grand Rapids
Sarnamotive Bluewater, St Clair (formerly Blue Water Plastics)	Boulder Park Terrace Nursing Home, Charlevoix
MeadWestvaco, Escanaba	Michigan Rubber Products, Cadillac
Detroit Diesel Corporation	Metal Works, Ludington